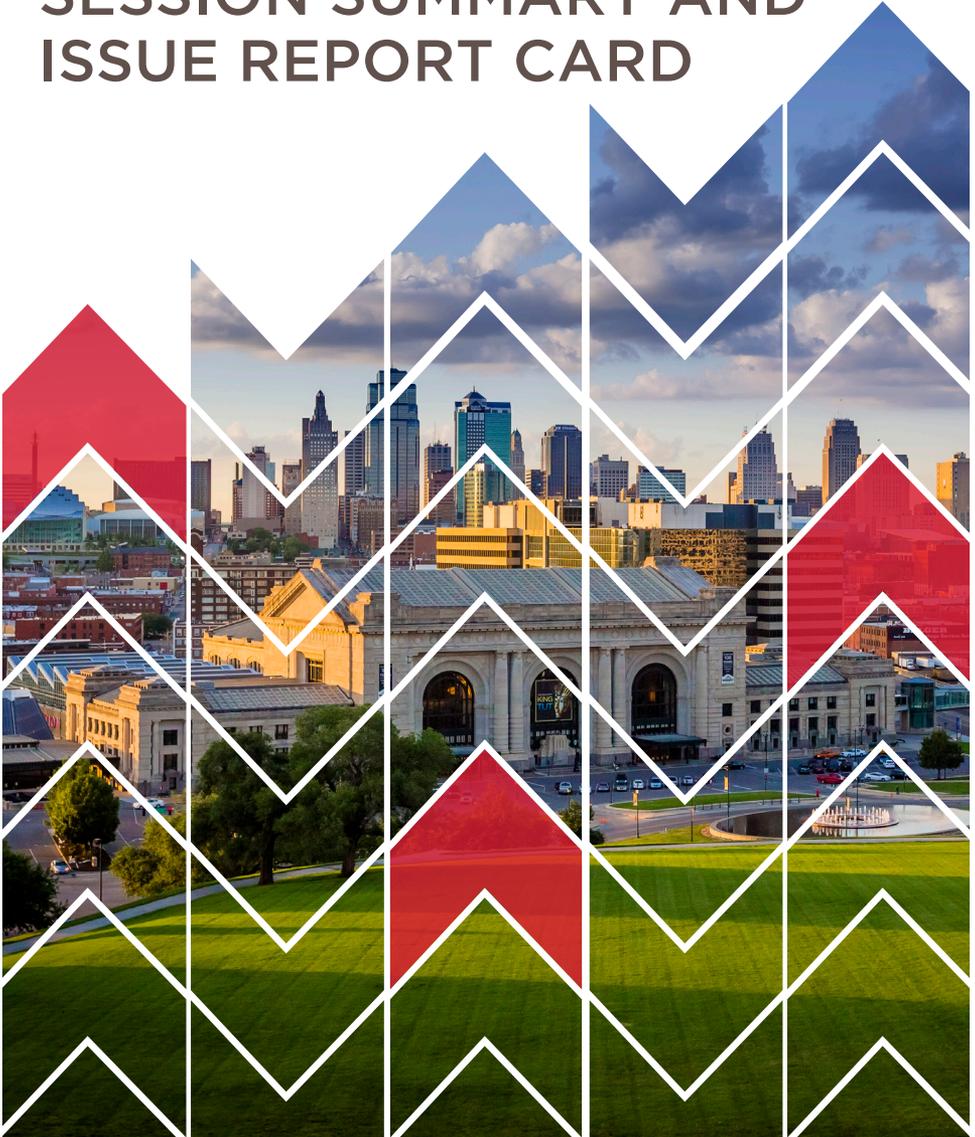




# 2019 MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY AND ISSUE REPORT CARD



## **BORDER WAR BILL:**

The Chamber thanks the Missouri General Assembly for its efforts to bring an end to the Kansas-Missouri economic border war. The Legislature offered a “ceasefire” by passing legislation which prohibits the issuance of incentives for businesses moving jobs across the Kansas-Missouri state line. Area Senator Mike Cierpiot led the efforts in the Capitol and the Chamber applauds the coordinated work to bring a responsible end to a wasteful policy which has cost Missouri taxpayers \$151 million since 2010. Bringing an end to the economic border war remains a priority of the KC Chamber as it hopes to see both states use their incentive dollars to create net new jobs opposed to creating new job commutes.

## **EARNINGS TAX:**

The KC Chamber is pleased to see that legislation to phase out and ultimately prohibit the Kansas City earnings tax failed to receive the Legislature’s approval. In recent years, Kansas City has faced attempts to end the earnings tax which generates approximately \$240 million for the city’s General Fund. On a visit to Jefferson City, KC Chamber President Joe Reardon spoke with state leaders conveying the significance of the 1% tax. The earnings tax has received overwhelming support from voters and will continue funding local police, firefighters, trash collection and other services.

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

The KC Chamber applauds the work of state leaders to approve workforce legislation which will support job training and postsecondary education attainment in the state. The business community made its collective voice heard as the KC Chamber joined the major metro chambers, as well as the state chamber, to meet with lawmakers to advocate for the passage of Governor Parson’s proposed workforce initiatives, Fast Track and Missouri One Start. The KC Chamber hosted a roundtable with the Governor where local business leaders shared their perspectives on area workforce needs and discussed barriers to workforce development.

## **BRIDGE BONDING UPDATE:**

The Kansas City Chamber applauds the leadership of Governor Mike Parson and President Pro Tem Senator Dave Schatz to move and approve a much-needed transportation funding package. When the Governor's original proposal looked to be in jeopardy presidents and volunteers from the three major metro area chambers hit the halls of the Capitol where they met with key legislators to advocate on behalf of the proposal. Soon after the Chamber's visit, Senator Schatz reached an agreement with lawmakers and amended his resolution permitting the state to borrow \$300 million in bonds to repair 215 bridges with a structure to pay off the debt sooner than the governor's original plan. The Chamber will continue advocating for necessary funding to update the state's infrastructure in order to support safety and commerce across Missouri.

## **EXPUNGEMENT:**

As the KC Chamber begins its work with area partners to improve re-entry opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals, it commends the General Assembly's modernization of Missouri's expungement laws. The would add several nonviolent felony and misdemeanor crimes to the lists of offenses for which people could seek expungement. Kansas City Senator Kiki Curls, a long champion of restorative justice, carried the bill. The KC Chamber believes effective criminal justice policies should give former offenders opportunities to support themselves through legitimate and productive work, which data show reduces recidivism and improves public safety.

## **MONA:**

The KC Chamber was disappointed to see another legislative session conclude without approving the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act (MONA). When area Representative Greg Razer offered his version of MONA, it marked the 21st consecutive year that legislation was filed to add protections for individuals based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Policies that enable discrimination of any kind make it difficult for businesses to attract world-class talent and impedes inclusivity which is necessary for an innovative business community. The KC Chamber remains committed to creating a more inclusive work environment in the region and across the state, in order to advance the growth and development of Missouri's economy.

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### Zac Sweets

Director, Public Policy  
sweets@kcchamber.com  
(816) 374-5406

### Nancy Giddens

KC Chamber Lobbyist  
Giddens@mchsi.com

### Shannon Cooper

Chamber Lobbyist  
cooper@thegiddensgroup.com